

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An optical communication network ~~(20)~~ in which optical signals are exchanged via a first data link between a first network node device ~~(1)~~ and a second network node device ~~(6)~~ with interposition of a number of further interconnected network node devices ~~(2, 3, 4, 5)~~, characterized in that, after a disturbance on the first data link, a third network node device ~~(3)~~ sends a signaling signal ~~(S32)~~ to a fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ connected to the third network node device ~~(3)~~, which signaling signal ~~(S32)~~ contains a parameter ~~(NRR)~~ determined by the third network node device ~~(3)~~ on the basis of which it is determined whether the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up a second data link which acts at least partially as a standby for the first data link or not, and wherein the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up the second data link if the distance between the fourth and the second network node device ~~(2, 6)~~ is not less than the distance, adapted by the distance between the fourth and third network node device ~~(2, 3)~~, between the third and second network node device ~~(3, 6)~~.

2. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the parameter ~~(NRR)~~ contains information with respect to the distance between the third network node device ~~(3)~~ and the second network node device ~~(6)~~.

3. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the distance between the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ and the second network node device ~~(2)~~ is additionally taken into consideration in the determination as to whether the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up the second data link or not.

4-5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the network node devices ~~(2, 3, 4)~~ which is located on the path, used by the first data link, from the fault location in the direction of the network node device ~~(1)~~ which has set up the first data link, is responsible for setting up the second data link.

7. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which one of the network node devices ~~(5)~~ which is located on the path, used by the first

data link, from the fault location in the direction of the destination network node device ~~(6)~~ of the first data link, is responsible for setting up the second data link.

8. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the parameter ~~(NRR)~~ determined by the third network node device ~~(3)~~ or a further parameter ~~(n)~~ transmitted to the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ contains information on whether the third network node device ~~(3)~~ has received a further signaling signal ~~(S31)~~, corresponding to the signaling signal ~~(S32)~~, from a further network node device ~~(4)~~ connected to the third network node device ~~(3)~~.

9. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 8, in which the parameter ~~(NRR)~~ or the further parameter ~~(n)~~ contains information on which number of further network node devices ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ have sent to corresponding network node devices ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ a further signaling signal ~~(S31)~~ corresponding to the signaling signal ~~(S32)~~, the further network node devices ~~(4, 5)~~ being connected directly or indirectly to the third network node device ~~(3)~~.

10. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 9, in which the fourth network

node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up the second data link if the number corresponds to a predetermined number.

11-13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) The optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the second data link extends wholly or partially via a different undisturbed path from the first data link.

15. (currently amended) A network node device ~~(2)~~ ~~which is designed and established in such a manner that it can be used~~ configured as fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ in an optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1.

16. (currently amended) The network node device ~~(3)~~ ~~which is designed and established in such a manner that it can be used~~ configured as third network node device ~~(3)~~ in an optical communication network ~~(20)~~ as claimed in claim 1.

17. (currently amended) An optical information transmission method in which optical signals are exchanged via a first data link between a first network node device ~~(1)~~ and a second network node device ~~(6)~~ with interposition of a number of further interconnected network node devices ~~(2, 3, 4, 5),~~

characterized in that, after a disturbance on the first data link, a third network node device ~~(3)~~ sends a signaling signal ~~(S32)~~ to a fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ connected to the third network node device ~~(3)~~, which signaling signal ~~(S32)~~ contains a parameter ~~(NRR)~~ determined by the third network node device ~~(3)~~ on the basis of which it is determined whether the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up a second data link for which acts at least partially as a standby for the first data link or not, and wherein the fourth network node device ~~(2)~~ is responsible for setting up the second data link if the distance between the fourth and the second network node device ~~(2, 6)~~ is not less than the distance, adapted by the distance between the fourth and third network node device ~~(2, 3)~~, between the third and second network node device ~~(3, 6)~~.